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Senators Try To Head Off a Debate on CIA

Washington, June 1 (News Bureau) — Key Senators today agreed to try to work out a compromise on the CIA watchdog suabbe in order to keep the sensitive issue from being aired on the Senate floor.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) said the question of further Senate surveillance over the spy outfit, due to be debated today, will be put off at least for the rest of this week. Mansfield made the announcement after a closed-door meeting with Democratic Sens. Richard Russell (Ga.), J. W. Fulbright (Ark.), ohn Stennis (Miss.) and Eugene McCarthy (Minn.).

The meeting was held a few hours before the Senate was scheduled to take up a resolution by McCarthy to allow three members of the Foreign Relations Committee, headed by Fulbright, to share in the special subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the CIA. The CIA watchdog panel presently is headed by Russell, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who is bitterly opposed to the resolution.

"Would Benefit No One"

Mansfield said one reason for the postponement was the hospitalization yesterday of Chairman Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) of the Appropriations Committee, which is represented on the Russell panel. But he said another reason was that principals in the stalemate were attempting to work out a compromise solution which would "foreclose floor debate on this most sensitive subject."

The Democratic leader said he was "not at all certain" about a compromise "but hopeful." A floor fight on operations of the hush-hush agency, he noted, "would not help CIA . . . would benefit no one."

"Some statements might be made that we would wish had not been made," he added.

McCarthy told newsmen that while "there's nothing new in the pot" the Senators would continue to seek a solution. One disclosed, is to allow the Foreign Relations Committee to have its own three-man CIA commission independent of the CIA subcommittee.